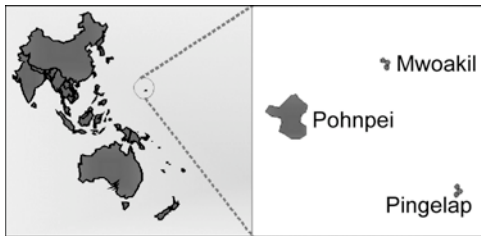


The Pingelapese Language

Pingelapese is spoken primarily on Pingelap Atoll and the high island of Pohnpei, two eastern Caroline Islands. Pingelap Atoll, the homeland of the Pingelapese people, is composed of three small coral islets. Collectively, all three islets cover only about three square miles, and the highest point on the atoll is only 10 feet above sea level.

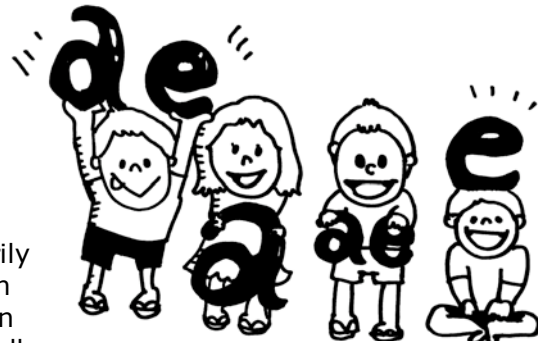


Politically, Pingelap Atoll is part of the state of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia. The majority of the Pingelapese people live on the island of Pohnpei, where the national and state capitals are located. Today,

there are a few hundred Pingelapese speakers on Pingelap Atoll and a thousand in the two major communities, Mwalok and Mand, on Pohnpei. The remainder lives in other locations.

Although we employ the spelling "Pingelap" in this book, following the spelling in other documents, the actual pronunciation is "Pingilap."

Since English is the national language and Pohnpeian is the official state language, Pingelapese people are generally multilingual. Not much work has been done on the Pingelapese language. Lacking its own dictionary, reference grammar, and bible, documentation of this language is needed for the sake of future generations.



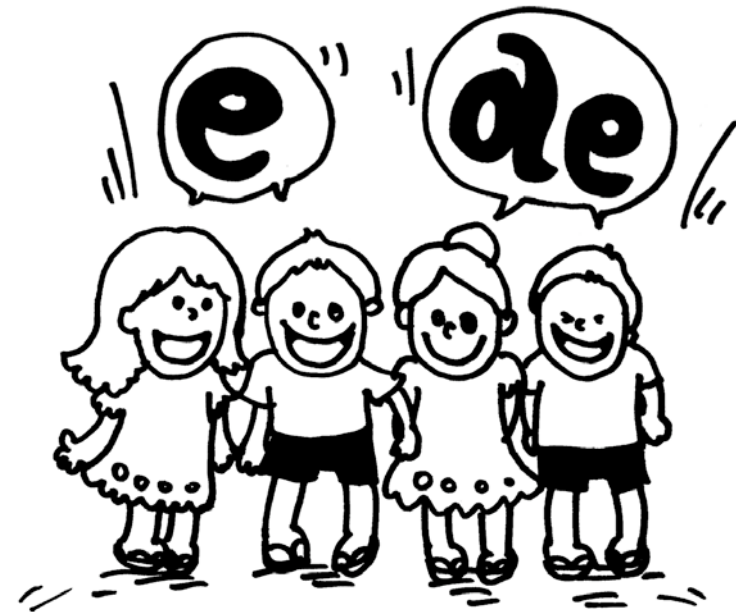
Pingelapese

"e" vs. "ae"

Do you know the difference?

Ke kakaen roang wikpaesaeng kaen?

Ke kakaen ihsingihdi wikpaesaeng kaen?



edited by Ryoko Hattori
sentences by Dayne Lemuel
pictures by Yumiko Konishi
words check by Ilander Charley and Weldis Welly

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About the authors

Ryoko Hattori is a graduate student in linguistics at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). Ryoko has been investigating the Pingelapese language since the Fall of 2002. Along with her academic research, Ryoko is developing Pingelapese literacy materials in the hope that they will extend the domains of usage of the language.

Dayne Lemuel is a native speaker of Pingelapese from Mwalok, Pohnpei, and currently an undergraduate majoring Biology at UHM. Dayne transferred to UH Fall 2005 and has been working with Ryoko since then. Through this project, Dayne hopes to be able to contribute to his community from Hawaii where he is now.

Yumiko Konishi is a Japanese undergraduate American Studies major at UHM. Yumiko is honored that the pictures that she drew could help Pingelapese children to learn reading and writing in their language. She wants to contribute to the society through her interests in arts.

About the Language Documentation Training Center

In the Spring of 2004, graduate students in the Department of Linguistics at UHM created the Language Documentation Training Center. Our mission is to help safeguard minority languages for which basic literacy documents, such as grammars and dictionaries, are either inadequate or nonexistent. For more information, please visit us at: www.ling.hawaii.edu/~uhdoc

Words from Pingelapese Community Leader

On behalf of the Pingelapese people, I like to take this opportunity and thank Ryoko Hattori for the work she is putting into creating a Pingelapese language picture book. This work is very important in teaching young Pingelapese the different sound and words in Pingelapese language.

Semensin K. James, Mayor Representative

Sam paelae ngidaeh lopin **seu** eu pah **saeu**.
(*Sam cuts his sugarcane under the sun.*)

Linda saewaeh paeraenikin **pei**, **paei** pwokou mae ae
paeraenikin.
(*Linda doesn't like to fight, weaving is what she likes.*)

Soaupwong ini **Mei** mae ke rakin **maei**.
(*Breadfruit is plentiful in the month of May.*)

Meh Pohnpei pwih **maeh** wia kamwaeng in nah saouwas.
(*The Pohnpeians will be responsible for the lunch meal.*)

Serih pwi ene suk **pehs** eu aeh dae ene **paehs**aela.
(*The kids pounded the border stone until it became powder.*)

Saeraek eu ae kipaeng rehn dae aekaen **serekesang** pwoh
waraepas dae kipidi nah sed.
(*The sail fell towards him and he dodged it and fell into the water.*)

Irah ene **waei** da dae **wei** maen mae irah wahdoa.
(*They've arrived and they brought a turtle.*)

John ke paeraen kin **keseu** pah **kaesaeu**.
(*John likes to run under the rain.*)

Koamwah rikipaenae **seir** ipwi dae kiaeng nah **saeir** eu.
(*You guys collect the flowers and put them in the tarp.*)

Kehs eu ae **kaehsekela** nah aispwoaks eu.
(*The case is stuck in the freezer.*)

Se **lel** kaeraenla ini kahpis eu, dae pwohn ae **laelpaeda**.
(*We got close to the dump and the smell increased.*)

Adam daekah Soahn aen **saei** kihla waeraen Soahn
waraepas Laepaeir dae wahda aen Adam **sei** eu.
(*Adam and John will paddle John's canoe to Laepaeir to pick up Adam's sheet.*)

Ngaei saewaeh kila kidih maen nah **kei** kis dae aekaen
kaeidi ngaei
(*I couldn't see the dog in the dark so he bit me.*)

Les, koamwa en **laes**-paenae.
(*What goes around comes around, you two crushed into each other.*)

The following eight vowel letters and 13
consonant letters are for writing in the Pingelap
language.

Eight vowel letters

a e ae i o oa u

13 consonant letters

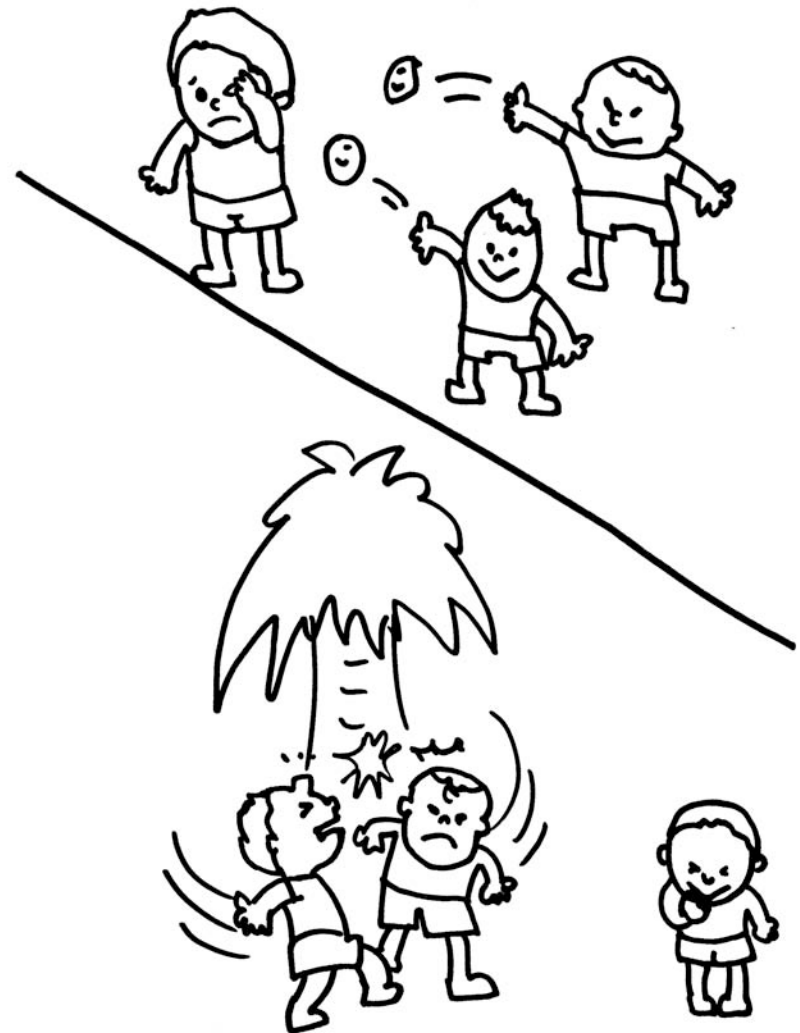
k l m mw n ng p
pw r s d w h

We will study the letters 'e' and 'ae' in this book.





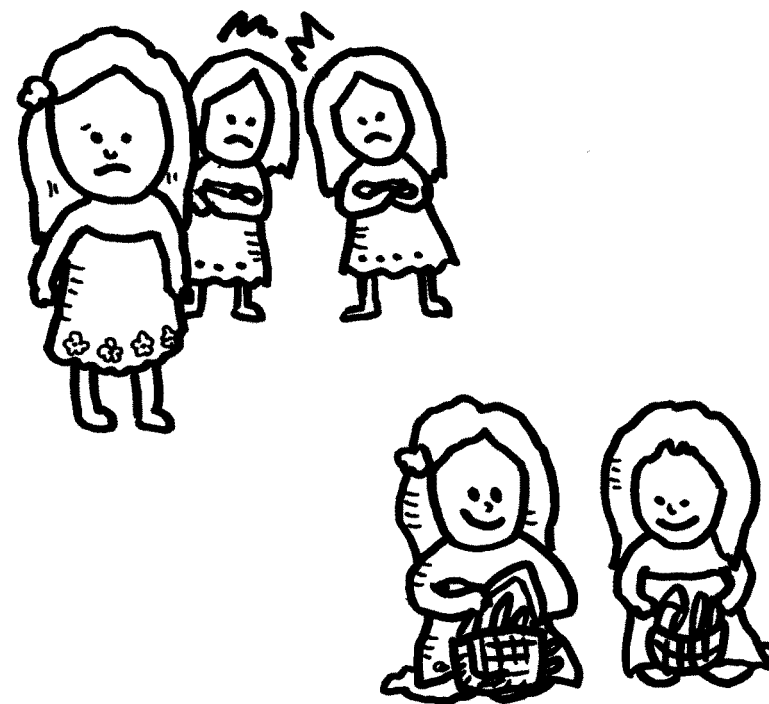
Sam paelae ngidaeh lopin **seu** eu pah **saeu**.



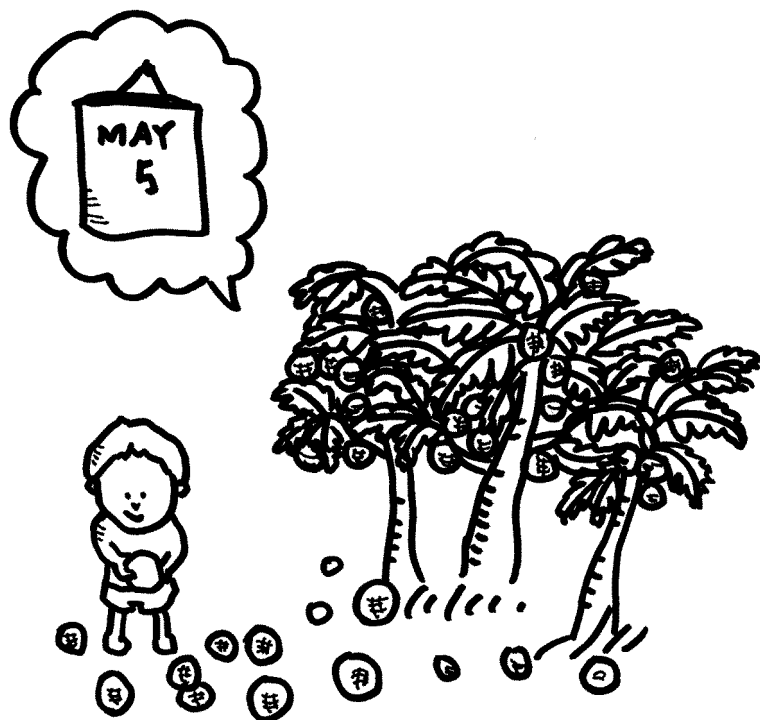
Les, koamwa en **laes**paenae.



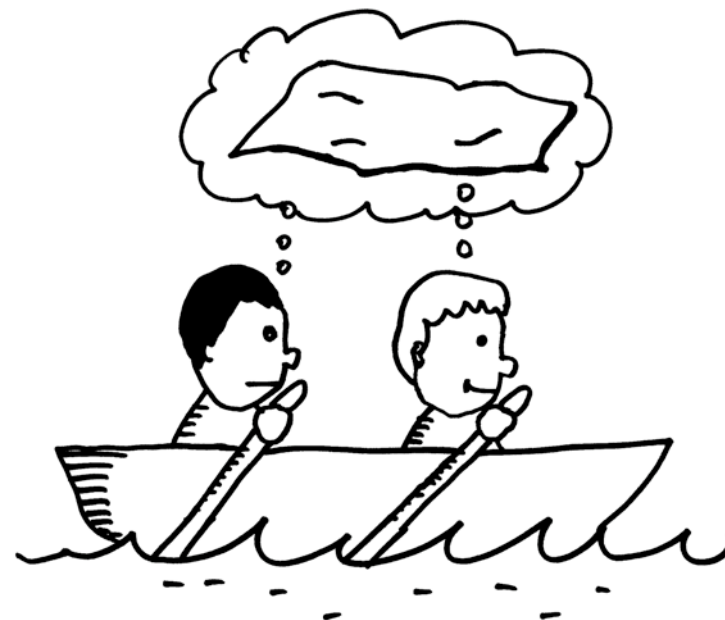
Ngaei saewaeh kila kidih maen nah **kei**
kis dae aekaen **kaeidi** ngaei.



Linda saewaeh paeraenikin **pei**,
paei pwokou mae ae paeraenikin.



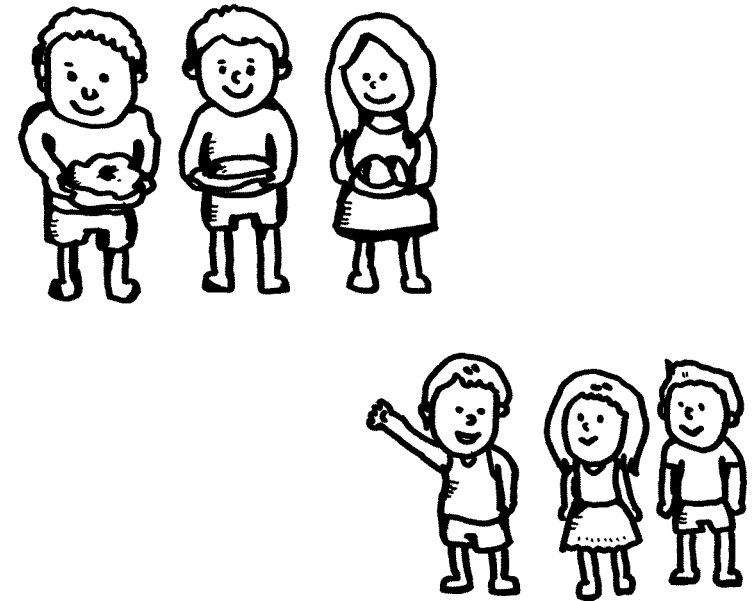
Soaunpwong ini **Mei** mae ke rakin **maei**.



Adam daekah Soahn aen **saei** kihla
waeraen Soahn waraepas laepaeir
dae wahda aen Adam **sei** eu.



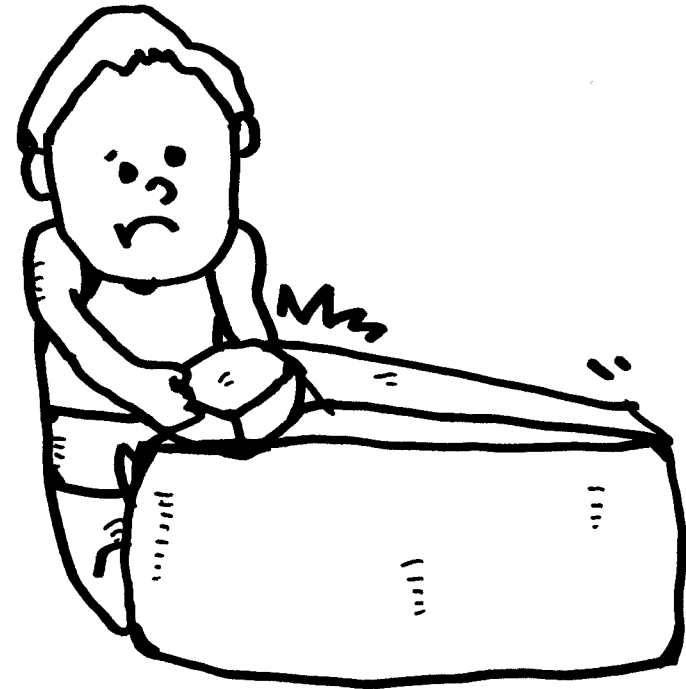
Se **lel** kaeraenla ini kahpis eu,
dae pwohn ae **laelaeda**.



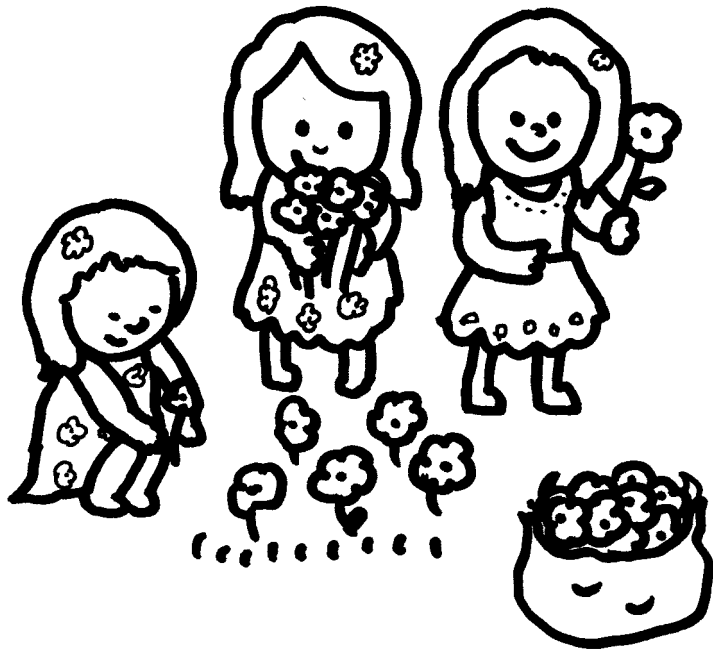
Meh Pohnpei pwih **maeh** wia
kamwaeng in nah saouwas.



Serih pwi ene suk **pehs**
eu aeh dae ene **paehsa**ela.



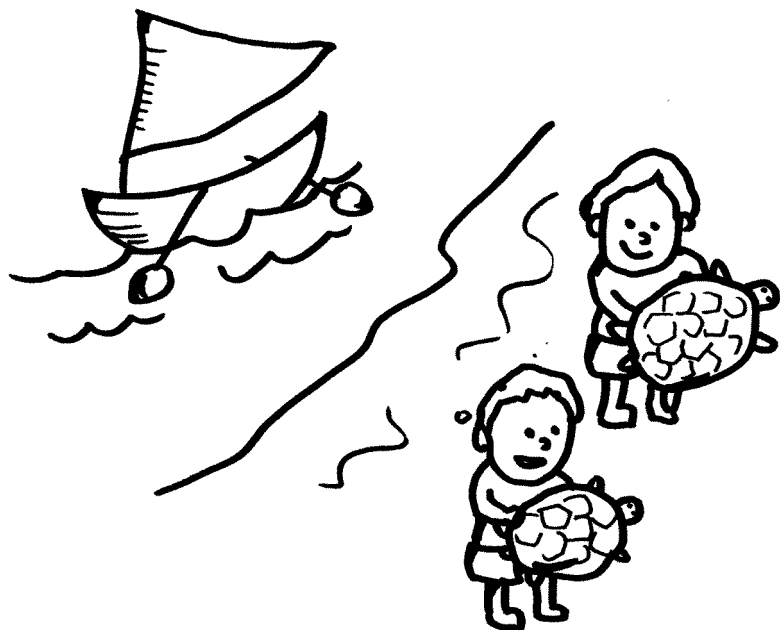
Kehs eu ae **kaehse**kela nah aispwoaks eu.



Koamwah rikipaenae **seir** ipwi
dae kiaeng nah **saeir** eu.



Saeraek eu ae kipaeng rehn dae aekaen
serekesang pwoh waraepas dae kipidi nah sed.



Irah ene **waeida** dae **wei** riau mae irah wahdoa.



John ke paeraen kin **keseu** pah **kaesaeu**.